

**U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**



**Confluence of Animas River and San Juan River at 1515 August 8, 2015**

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Region VI**

**Subject: POLREP #2  
Gold King Mine Spill - Region 6**

**Various New Mexico locations., NM  
Latitude: 36.8374600 Longitude: -107.9916800**

**From: Ronnie Crossland, Region 6 Regional Incident Commander (RIC)  
Date: 8/9/2015  
Reporting Period: 8/8/2015 0700 – 8/8/2015 1900**

**1. Introduction**

**1.1 Description of Threat**

Region 8 reported approximately one million gallons of mine waste water was released into Cement Creek and the Animas River. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of

contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

## **1.2 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results**

Water sampling is ongoing (analytical results are pending), and field pH levels and other water quality parameters are being monitored.

## **2. Current Activities**

### **2.1 Operations Section**

All eight samples locations were sampled on August 8. Impacts of the spill were visible at all sampling locations. Sampling will continue in the same manner tomorrow, with the same eight sites being revisited.

OSC Hayes participated in a Community Meeting with NMED and other local officials. Several topics were discussed including river pulse sampling and potential drinking water well sampling.

Per Region 8, the release of water at the spill site is now down to 548 gallons/per minute, the water is being treated with caustic soda and flocculants in settlement ponds prior to release.

The slug is moving at approximately 2.5 miles per hour in the San Juan River. ASPECT completed afternoon surveys from Ship Rock to Durango. Preliminary analysis of images indicate that as of 1515 on August 8, the leading edge of the slug is estimated to be just past Nenahnezad, NM, approximately 9 miles west of Farmington.

The Mobile Command Post will arrive in New Mexico late Sunday evening. The MCP will support the EPA Region 6 staff, 2 OSCs and 2 drinking water staff, in addition to the nine START contractors.

A draft sampling plan is being developed to address sampling and analysis of sediment and well-water. This plan along with a draft data management plan are being developed jointly by Regions 6, 8 and 9.

New Mexico is asking residents with that have concerns about their private water wells to bring samples to them at the County Fair in Farmington. EPA will coordinate with the state to supplement this effort.

### **2.2 Safety Section**

The R6 REOC Safety Officer is working with operations to evaluate hazards for responders and is finalizing a Health and Safety Plan (HASP) for R6 field activities for the incident.

## 2.3 Finance Section

### Daily Cost Estimates Report

Funding Source	EPA Expended Payroll	EPA Expended Travel	Contract Costs	TOTAL Expended	Est. Burn Rate
EPA	\$11,700.00	\$5,100.00	\$17,100.00	\$33,900.00	\$33,900.00

## 3. Participating Entities

US EPA  
NMED  
NM Department of Health  
NM Office of the State Engineer  
NM Department of Game and Fish  
ATSDR

## 4. Personnel On Site

Gold King Mine Blowout 2015	
Group	Number
Region 6 EPA @ REOC	11
Region 6 Contractors @ REOC	3
Region 6 EPA in Field (R6)	5
Region 6 Contractors in Field	9